

Claims

- [c1] 1. A content distribution system comprising:
- a content source;
 - a plurality of consumer networks including a controller and a consumer storage device;
 - a distribution network coupling said content source to said controller of said consumer networks, said distribution network including network storage devices and network processors;
 - a grid computing platform including said controllers, said network processors, said consumer storage devices and said network storage devices, said grid computing platform providing storage of said content across network storage devices and consumer storage devices and distribution of said content to one or more of said consumer networks.
- [c2] 2. The system of claim 1 wherein:
- said grid computing platform compresses content prior to said distribution of said content to one of said consumer networks.
- [c3] 3. The system of claim 1 wherein:
- said grid computing platform encodes content prior to

said distribution of said content to one said consumer networks.

- [c4] 4. The system of claim 1 wherein:
one of said consumer networks specifies a quality of service, delivery of said content being billed in response to said quality of service.
- [c5] 5. The system of claim 1 wherein:
said distribution of said content includes distributing content from a first consumer network to a second consumer network.
- [c6] 6. The system of claim 1 wherein:
said distribution of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content from a first content source, delivering a second portion of said content from a second content source, and assembling said first portion and said second portion at a first consumer network.
- [c7] 7. The system of claim 6 wherein:
said first content source is said network storage device and said second content source is a second consumer network.
- [c8] 8. The system of claim 6 wherein:
said first portion is video and said second portion is video.

- [c9] 9. The system of claim 6 wherein:
said first portion is even video frames and said second
portion is odd video frames.
- [c10] 10. The system of claim 1 wherein:
said distribution of said content includes delivering a
first portion of said content prior to viewing said content
and streaming a second portion of said content in real-
time when said content is viewed.
- [c11] 11. The system of claim 10 wherein:
said second portion of said content is audio.
- [c12] 12. The system of claim 10 wherein:
said second portion of said content is a component of a
video signal.
- [c13] 13. The system of claim 1 wherein:
said distribution of said content is performed in re-
sponse to distribution network performance.
- [c14] 14. The system of claim 13 wherein:
said distribution network performance is determined
based on bandwidth to one of said consumer networks.
- [c15] 15. The system of claim 14 wherein:
content is delivered prior to viewing or for realtime view-
ing in response to said bandwidth to one of said con-

sumer networks.

- [c16] 16. The system of claim 14 wherein:
the number of active content delivery sessions to one of
said consumer networks is determined based on said
bandwidth.
- [c17] 17. The system of claim 1 wherein:
said distribution network includes at least one of DSL,
cable and wireless networks.
- [c18] 18. The system of claim 1 wherein:
said content is associated with a content profile and said
consumer network is associated with a consumer profile,
said content being distributed to said consumer network
in response to said content profile and said consumer
profile.
- [c19] 19. The system of claim 18 wherein:
said consumer network includes a device for displaying
said content, said content being distributed to said con-
sumer network in response to said content profile, said
consumer profile and said device profile.